



UN Report on Least Developed Countries Focuses on the Relationship Between Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction



Left: Former National Planning Commission Vice Chairman Dr. Shankar Sharma and UN Resident Coordinator and UNIC Director Mr. Robert Piper
Photo: UNIC

likely worsen situation, says The Least Developed Countries Report 2008 released here today by the UN Information Centre.

The highest rate of economic progress in the world's 50 least developed countries (LDCs) in the last 30 years has not been enough to prevent their total number of poor from increasing, a new UNCTAD report reveals. Three fourths of those living in these nations continue to survive on less than US\$2 a day. Recent rising food costs are

threatening to undercut the modest progress achieved, the report adds.

The report, published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), finds that the main reasons strong economic growth fails to translate into hefty improvements in well-being are the types of growth and the models of development that LDCs have been following. These approaches mean only limited segments of the population benefit from economic expansion. Job creation has been limited, which deprives most people of direct increases in their earnings. Another factor making social progress difficult is strong population growth.

KATHMANDU, 17 July 2008 - Exceptional economic performance in some of the world's poorest countries fails to reach broad populations; global food crisis will

likely worsen situation, says The Least Developed Countries Report 2008 released here today by the UN Information Centre.

UNIC, Kathmandu Celebrates International Observance of the Day of Vesak



UN Resident Coordinator and UNIC Director Mr. Robert Piper inaugurating the International Observance of the Day of Vesak on 20 May 2008 at the UN House by lighting the sacred lamp.
Photo: UNIC

association with the International Institute of Buddhist Studies Nepal.

The function was addressed by the UN Resident Coordinator and UNIC Director Mr. Robert Piper, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Nepal H.E. Mr. Amaral Sumith Nakandala, Chairperson of the International

Mr. Piper highlighted the significance of the Day from UN's perspective and read out UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon's message of the Day. Some 150 people participated in the event which was also covered by the local media.

This Day has been approved by UN General Assembly resolution acknowledging that the Day of Vesak, the Day of the Full Moon in the month of May each year, be internationally recognized and, in particular, at United Nations Headquarters and other United Nations Offices, in recognition that the Day is the most sacred to Buddhists, who commemorate on that day, the birth of the Buddha, his attainment of enlightenment and his passing away.

UNIC, Kathmandu celebrated International Observance of the Day of Vesak on 20 May 2008 in the UN Conference Hall in

Institute of Buddhist Studies Nepal Mr. Prem Lal Chitrakar and leading Nepalese Monks and Nuns.

UNCTAD 2008

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The Secretary General

The Real UN

Secretary-General greets Nepal's First President



UN Secretary-General,
Ban Ki-moon

By UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

Detractors often call the United Nations a "talking shop," home to 192 nations and where, it's memorably been said, "no issue is too small to be debated endlessly."

But the real UN, almost invisible to the general public, is an action-oriented UN. This real UN feeds 90 million people in more than 70 countries—a thin blue line between hungry people and starvation. It wipes out debilitating diseases like smallpox and polio and vaccinates 40 percent of the world's children. It provides \$2 billion annually in emergency disaster relief and maintains the second- largest army in the world—a global peacekeeping force of 120,000 brave men and women who go where others can't or won't go.

In my travels, often to the world's most difficult places, I always try to meet the faces behind these facts and figures. At a film festival in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, I recently introduced a few of them to Hollywood screenwriters and directors who wanted to learn more about the UN. (Details on <http://kathmandu.unic.org>)

22 July 2008 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today congratulated Ram Baran Yadav on his election as the first President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, and called on all parties in the Asian country to cooperate in forming a new government. Dr. Yadav was elected by Nepal's Constituent Assembly.

The election was the latest move towards establishing a federal democratic republic in Nepal, which emerged from a decade-long civil war in 2006. An estimated 13,000 people were killed in fighting between Government and Maoist forces. The 240-year old monarchy was abolished in May 2008.

UN observes 60 years of service by peacekeepers worldwide:
Honors Fallen peacekeepers from Nepal



*Fallen
peacekeepers
from Nepal were
among those
honored
at a solemn
ceremony at UN
Headquarters*

29 May 2008 – From solemn wreath-laying ceremonies honouring those who died in service to a peace march, concerts, sporting events and multimedia exhibitions, United Nations offices and missions around the world observed the International Day of UN Peacekeepers – 60 years to the day after the first blue helmets were authorized by the Organization.

In a statement marking the day, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that "peacekeeping has developed into a flagship enterprise of our Organization. Today, we have

more than 110,000 men and women deployed in conflict zones around the world. They come from nearly 120 countries -- an alltime high, reflecting confidence in United Nations peacekeeping."

Mr. Ban added that "Each one is a hero. Today, we recommit ourselves to ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten and the vital work of the Blue Helmets continues as long as they are needed." Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guéhenno led a wreath-laying ceremony at UN Headquarters in New York this morning, noting that 90 peacekeepers died last year, taking the total number of personnel who have died since the first operation was established in 1948 to over 2,400.

Among those honoured at today's wreath laying ceremony were two fallen Nepalese peacekeepers who lost their lives while serving with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH): Private Sitaram Kafle who died in September 2007,

and Technical Corporal Krishna Prasad Khanal who lost his life in June 2007.

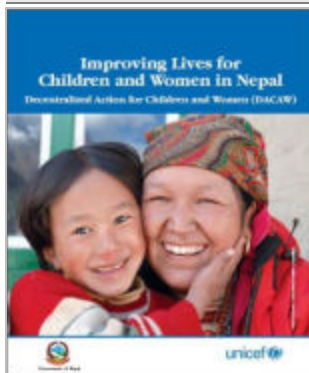
"Serving far from home in challenging and dangerous environments, these men and women represent the best the international community has to offer; we pay tribute to their sacrifice and dedication in pursuit of the noble goals of the United Nations," he said. "

But even as we mourn those we have lost, we pay tribute to the professionalism, dedication and courage of those who continue the work of their departed comrades whom we honour here today." Military, police and civilian personnel currently serve in 20 UN peace operations around the world, and the UN peacekeeping budget stands at \$6.5 billion, an all-time high.

Nepal is currently the 5th largest contributor of troops and police to the United Nations with more than 3,600 serving in 15 peacekeeping operations around the world.

Report/Development

Improving lives for Children and Women in Nepal 2008

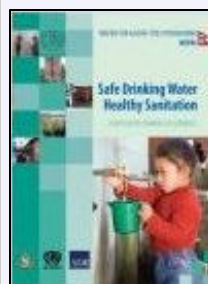


Some 46 per cent of Nepal's population of 26 million are children aged less than 18 years. The mortality rate of under-ones has decreased substantially over the last two decades, and currently stands at 48 deaths per 1000 live births.

However, this still amounts to over 40,000 children aged less than one year dying each year. Child malnutrition rates are also high, with half of all under-fives being stunted, or too short for their age. Every year, there are approximately 960,000 pregnancies in Nepal.

The maternal mortality rate was estimated to be 281 per 100,000 live births in 2005. About 82 per cent of births take place at home without any trained assistance, increasing the risks for both the mother and the newborn.

Safe Drinking Water Healthy Sanitation



This publication is the result of the achievements obtained by WAC programme Nepal since the start its programme on 2005. It basically captures the success stories especially in the sector of Rainwater Harvesting, Water bottling programme in Chayasal in Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City, An Integrated water and sanitation solution project in Siddhipur VDC, Water and Sanitation Improvement project in Tigni, Madhayapur Municipality and community based waste water treatment plant in Sunga.

This publication aims to promote the innovative and successful WATSAN technologies for its potential replication and advocacy.

Asia-Pacific Human Development Report on Corruption



Corruption is increasingly being challenged as unacceptable across Asia and the Pacific. This Report shows why eliminating corruption that plagues people's daily lives must become a priority.

The police, social services, and environment are areas countries should consider focusing on. Now is the time to seize the moment, to combine pressure from above, in government and the private sector, with the voice of the people from below. Successes are emerging, alongside growing international commitment - history does not have to become the region's destiny.



Human Development Report 2007/2008 | HRD 2008



Climate change is the defining human development challenge of the 21st Century. Failure to respond to that challenge will stall and then reverse

international efforts to reduce poverty. The poorest countries and most vulnerable citizens will suffer the earliest and most damaging setbacks, even though they have contributed least to the problem. Looking to the future, no country—however wealthy or powerful—will be immune to the impact of global warming.

The Human Development Report 2007/2008 shows that climate change is not just a future scenario. Increased exposure to droughts, floods and storms is already destroying opportunity and reinforcing inequality. Meanwhile, there is now overwhelming scientific evidence that the world is moving towards the point at which irreversible ecological catastrophe becomes unavoidable. Business-as-usual climate change points in a clear direction: unprecedented reversal in human development in our lifetime, and acute risks for our children and their grandchildren.

UNDP: Saving more lives with small investments



Residents of Divyanagar - 4 in Chitwan district, have a lot to smile about these days. Ever since UNDP's Community Based Disaster Management Project (CBDMP) provided their village, a grant of Rs. 250,000 (US\$ 3,660) through the Chitwan District Development Committee (DDC), the villagers feel secure from flooding by the nearby Narayani river. With the money – the villagers contributed free labour to construct stone and wire meshing spurs that directed the mighty Narayani's water flow away from the village towards the opposite shore, which is uninhabited. In addition, hundreds of saplings were planted along the riverside. Flooding was so severe in Divyanagar that the river now flows on land where 80 houses used to stand until 1993. As the river steadily neared the remaining 42 houses on the banks, the villagers had given up hope about saving their village. With the work done with the assistance of the CBDMP project, the lives and livelihoods, of the inhabitants of the 42 households in the village has been saved from the ravages of flooding.

Municipality Staffs empowered on Solid Waste Management



Training on Capacity Building of Municipality staff on Solid Waste management

Solid Waste Management and Resource Mobilization Centre (SWMRMC) and UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme Nepal organized a capacity building programme on Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Climate Change Issues. The training was organized to develop human resource capable to manage solid waste at municipal level and to decentralize the authority of solid waste management to local government. Municipality staffs from 25 different municipalities of Nepal participated in the training.

The participants of the training were oriented on different techniques of managing solid waste including bin composting, briquette production and bio-gas generation from waste as alternative options of solid waste management. The training also included hospital and industrial waste management.

AUGUST 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

UN Events Calendar (August)

09 Aug 2008: International Day Of The World's Indigenous People

By resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly decided to celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 9 August every year during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In 2004 the Assembly proclaimed a Second International Decade by resolution 59/174. The goal of this Decade is to further strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment, and social and economic development.

URL: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/indigenous>

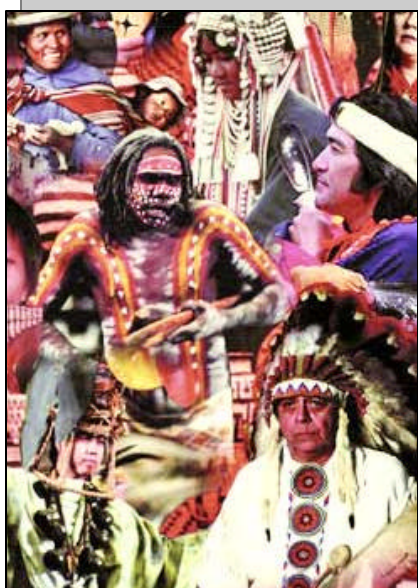
12 Aug 2008: International Youth Day

The General Assembly on 17 December 1999 in its resolution 54/120, endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995 (resolution 50/81).

URL: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday.htm>

23 Aug 2008: International Day For The Remembrance Of The Slave Trade And Its Abolition

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery recalls the date of the adoption, by the General Assembly, of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others [Resolution 317 (IV) of 2 December 1949]. The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition is celebrated every 23rd of August.



International Day Of The World's Indigenous People



Any Other Business



UN Nepal

ADB<http://www.adb.org>**FAO**Website : <http://www.fao.org>**ILO**Website : <http://www.ilo.org>**IMF**<http://www.imf.org>**OHCHR**Website : <http://nepal.ohchr.org>**UNAIDS**Website : <http://www.unaids.org>**UNCDF**<http://www.uncdf.org/nepal>**UNDP**Website : <http://www.undp.org.np>**UNESCO**Website : <http://www.unesco.org/kathmandu>**UNFPA**Website : <http://www.unfpanepal.org>**UN-HABITAT**Website: <http://www.unhabitat.org>**UNHCR**Website : <http://www.unhcr.org>**UNIC**Website: <http://kathmandu.unic.org>**UNICEF**Email : kathmandu@unicef.org**UNIFEM**Website : <http://www.unifem.org>**UNMIN**Website : <http://www.unmin.org.np>**UNODC**Website: <http://www.unodc.org>**UNV**<http://www.unv.org>**WB**<http://www.worldbank.org>**WFP**Website: <http://www.wfp.org>**WHO**Website : www.nep.searo.who.int**Comments or Suggestions****United Nations Information Centre | UNIC Kathmandu**United Nations Information Centre
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In its constant endeavor to upgrade its service delivery with new and innovative approach through recent Information Technology, UNIC Kathmandu has implemented the electronics library system with internet facility to visitors as well as e-Catalogue for fast and efficient tracking of available contents in reference library.

This catalogue is available online for home users as well as for other individuals.

URL: http://kathmandu.unic.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=73



UNIC Kathmandu is located in the UN House where most of the UN agencies in Nepal are also located. UNIC has a separate entrance for visitors to facilitate their access into the Centre - be it to consult the reference library;

to attend press conferences or for seeking information on UN related issues.

UNIC undertakes extensive press activities, such as organizing press conferences for visiting UN officials, and for other UN agencies located in Nepal. It helps to prepare joint statements for the UN Country Team on various important issues and disseminates statements of the UN Secretary-General and other press releases/news/articles/reports coming from UN Headquarters. It is fully accessible to media persons and visitors during office hours.